

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGUI 01233 022005Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /065 W
-----056452 031757Z /53
R 021435Z JUN 78
FM JMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 261

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGUI 1233

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, PLAB, CT
SUBJ: ELECTIONS IN THE CAE

REF: BANGUI 0600

1. IN MY FAREWELL CALL ON MINISTER OF STATE DA SILVA, HE BROUGHT ME UP TO DATE ON MESAN'S PLANS FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS. HE NOTED THAT PARTY ELECTIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED FROM THE VILLAGE THROUGH THE PREFECTORAL LEVEL. ALL THAT REMAINED WERE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. THE ELECTORAL LAW FOR THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP AND IS AWAITING THE EMPEROR'S APPROVAL. IT PROVIDES FOR BETWEEN 70 AND 80 DEPUTIES TO BE ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE AND SECRET BALLOT. MULTIPLE CANDIDACIES FOR EACH SEAT WILL BE ENCOURAGED. CONSTITUENCIES WILL BE CREATED ON THE BASIS OF POPULATION. IT WAS PLANNED TO PUBLISH THE ELECTORAL LAW IN JULY AND TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE ALMOST TWICE AS MANY MEMBERS AS IN THE PRE-1966 LEGISLATURE. INDIVIDUALS WITH POLICE RECORDS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND AND IN GENERAL AN EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO FIND EDUCATED, RESPONSIBLE AND REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES.

2. DA SILVA REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO A LIBERALIZATION OF THE SYSTEM AND THE CREATION OF A CONSTITU-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGUI 01233 022005Z

TIONAL MONARCHY. AFTER TEN YEARS OF FIRM AND STABLE RULE, WHICH IN THE CONDITIONS OF THE TIME WAS NECESSARY, THE MOMENT HAD NOW COME FOR THE PEOPLE TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN GOVERNING THE COUNTRY.

3. I COMMENTED THAT THE CAE'S FRIENDS WOULD BE WATCHING THESE ELECTIONS WITH INTEREST. FREE ELECTIONS WOULD BE SEEN AS A

POSITIVE STEP. GIVEN THE PUBLICITY WHICH THE CAE HAD RECEIVED IN THE PAST AND THE IMAGE WHICH REMAINED IN PEOPLE'S MINDS IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE, PROGRESS ON POLITICAL RIGHTS AND ON SUCH TANGIBLE ISSUES AS A CONSULAR CONVENTION WAS NECESSARY IF PAST MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DIFFERENCES WERE TO BE SURMOUNTED.

4. DA SILVA NOTED THE EMPEROR'S ATTACHMENT TO THE WEST AND TO WESTERN VALUES AND HE MENTIONED BOKASSA'S DESIRE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. I SAID THAT FRANKLY SUCH A VISIT WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY PREPARED AND WOULD ONLY BE PRODUCTIVE IF A FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE EXISTED IN WASHINGTON. THIS WOULD BE NO EASY TASK GIVEN ATTITUDES WHICH HAD DEVELOPED IN RECENT YEARS. THE POLITICAL CHANGES ON WHICH THE MINISTER WAS WORKING WOULD BE HELPFUL AND I HOPED WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A POSITIVE EVOLUTION IN OUR RELATIONS.
QUAINTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGUI01233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780233-0081
Format: TEL
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806104/aaaadlpy.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: be70147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BANGUI 600
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2151749
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS IN THE CAE
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, ELAB, CT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/be70147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014